

GARSTANG
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



INTERIM
ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1944



R. SEED & SONS,
43 GUILDHALL STREET, PRESTON.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

To the Garstang Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present to you for your consideration my Interim Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

The Vital Statistics are not available at present.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,189
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,562
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,773
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1938 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,360
Number of Families, or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,796
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£74,913
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£300

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Mostly agriculture, poultry farming, market gardening—which has increased during the last few years ; seven cheese and milk factories, one paper mill, one paper bag works, two cotton factories. A number of men are employed in the building trades and also a number of residents, owing to the good 'bus service, are employed in the neighbouring towns.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases during 1944.

Age Periods			New Cases			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.
Years						
1—5	...	...	...	...	1	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	2	2
10—15	...	...	...	...	3	...
15—20	...	...	...	1	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	...	...	1	...	...
35—45	...	...	2	2	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...
Totals	...		3	4	6	2
			7		8	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

During the year 1944 the scheme for the voluntary immunisation against diphtheria for all children in the district was still in operation.

The apparent decrease in the number of children immunised since 1942 is due to the fact that the bulk of the children of school age and under were immunised during the earlier years of the campaign, the figures for 1944 being, in the main, children under school age.

A scheme is now in operation whereby a birthday greeting card, together with literature dealing with the advantages of Immunisation against diphtheria, is sent to each child in the district on attaining one year of age.

The number of children immunised since 1941 is given below :

		1941	1942	1943	1944	Grand Total
Age in years :						
1 to 5	...	407	575	183	149	1314
5 to 10	...	1318	1430	45	29	2842
Total each year		1725	2005	228	178	4136

The scheme is being continued by arrangement with local practitioners.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Andrew Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., temporary part-time Medical Officer of Health.*

J. R. Blackledge, Sanitary Inspector.*

J. B. Cook, Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector, whole-time officer.

* 50 per cent. Exchequer contributions to the salaries of these officers under the Local Government Act, 1933.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Council provide School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensary and Venereal Disease Treatment Centres, etc.

Milk samples for bacteriological examination are sent to the Preston Royal Infirmary.

Water samples are sent to Manchester University.

Specimens of sputum, swabs and samples, etc., are sent to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., London, and the Preston Royal Infirmary.

Two specimens of sputum, two of blood, and 11 throat and nose swabs were sent for examination. None were found to give positive results.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

An ambulance is provided for infectious cases by the Moss Side Isolation Hospital.

Accident cases are dealt with by the County Police, and ambulances are provided by the adjoining Borough of Preston and City of Lancaster.

Private ambulances are available as previously.

The Elswick Sanatorium has also a motor ambulance for tuberculous patients.

Emergency Maternity Units : The so-called " Flying Squads " are available from Lancaster and Preston, and ambulances for maternity cases are also available.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Three full-time midwives, who also visit in the homes non-infectious cases, are provided by Voluntary Nursing Associations.

Eight registered midwives are practising in the area, but not employed or subsidised by the Council.

solution, in addition to having an unsatisfactory bacterial content. This supply is obtained from an upland spring and piped in glazed earthenware pipes to a concrete storage tank, from whence it gravitates via asbestos cement and lead service pipes to the premises. After further investigation, it was decided to close the existing supply and utilise the water from a different source, after chemical and bacteriological tests had indicated that this water was satisfactory, and had no plumbo solvent action upon lead. The work of laying a main from the source to the storage tank is now in progress.

A bacteriological examination of water supplied to 11 premises in Oakenclough indicated pollution by surface water, the chemical report on this water was satisfactory. Pending investigation, all the consumers were advised to boil the water before using it for drinking purposes.

Following complaints of an insufficiency of water from a group of nine farms and five cottages supplied from a private source, negotiations with the owners concluded in a supply from the Fylde Water Board being obtained, the work now being completed.

The following is a summary of the water supplies to premises.

Private Houses	...	...	...	583
Fylde Water Board	...	...	...	2866
Manchester Corporation	...	...	...	103

During the year six samples of water were submitted for analysis, the results being :

		Chemical		Bacteriological
Satisfactory	...	5	...	3
Unsatisfactory	...	1	...	3

SCAVENGING.

The Council have undertaken scavenging in 11 of the 20 parishes in the district, and possess one 7-cubic-yard Bedford tipping vehicle, manned by a driver and two loaders. Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on four tips in the district, and every endeavour is made to carry out the precautions recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Salvage is collected from the whole area by the Council's refuse collection vehicle, and by a contractor, the following items being :

		1944			1943			1942		
		T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper		36	10	0	82	8	2	114	12	0
Rags, etc.	...	3	7	1	5	6	1	4	2	2
Bones	...	1	2	0	13	0	1	1	1	3

After prolonged negotiations with the Ministry of Works a dump of approximately 60 tons of tins and scrap metal on the Kettle Lane tip was finally cleared, a further accumulation in Pilling being in the process of removal.

Following the receipt of Circulars 118a and 113, the collection of tins, scrap metal and rubber for salvage has been discontinued, these materials now being collected as house refuse.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

There are, as far as can be ascertained, approximately 2,200 houses provided with water closets within the district, there being over 1,000 properties with pail closets or privies. Owing to the present acute shortage of materials and labour, the conversion of pails, etc., to water closets has been suspended, but the programme will be renewed as labour and materials become available.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year :

Sanitary Defects	...	...	...	...	33
Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc.	...	...	...	...	34
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	36
Drainage Works	...	...	...	...	15
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	56
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	29
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	11
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	15
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	52
Salvage	...	...	...	...	49
Ditches, Watercourses	...	...	...	...	34
Rodent Control...	...	...	...	...	17
Sanitary Accommodation—					
Pails	...	...	...	...	15
Privies	...	...	...	...	10
Waterclosets	...	...	...	...	24
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	36
Dairies	...	...	...	...	114
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	114
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	53
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	25
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	6

In the main, repairs to property and other complaints were remedied by means of a personal interview with the owner, informal notices being served in a small number of cases. It was not found necessary to issue a Statutory Notice in any case.

The following is a summary of Notices Served, etc. :

Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	36
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food-preparing premises of all types have been regularly inspected and have been found to be generally satisfactory. No further action beyond a verbal notice to cleanse premises has been found necessary.

There are approximately 700 milk producing farms within the area, which are generally kept up to a reasonable standard of cleanliness. Limewashing and cleansing has been required in a small number of cases, and in all cases has been carried out. Sampling of milk retailed in the area is systematically carried out, and milk supplied to schools is sampled quarterly by arrangements with the County Medical Officer of Health.

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district, from which samples are regularly submitted for examination. In all cases the samples were reported satisfactory, and inspection of the plant and records have revealed that the same is well maintained.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district, all meat consumed in the area being obtained from Lancaster and Blackpool.

There is one licensed Knackers' Yard in Catterall. Regular inspections are made of the premises, which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

The following is a summary of samples of milk taken during the year (excluding School milk) :

No. of Samples	Untreated		Heat Treated		Methylene Blue	
					Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
27	...	24	3		18	6
B. Coli.		Phosphatase		T.B.		
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Positive	Negative	
12	12	3	—	1	23	

The sample reported T.B. positive was notified to the County Medical Officer of Health and the affected animal was traced and slaughtered.

Where unsatisfactory samples are reported, a visit is made to the farm and an investigation made, advice being given to milkers where necessary.

The following amounts of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered, a certificate of unfitness being issued in each case :

Butter, 22½ lbs.	Flour, 126 lbs.
Fish, 392 lbs.	Oranges, 20 lbs.
Bacon, 96 lbs.	

HOUSING.

Number of dwelling houses erected during the year :

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	4
(i) By Local Authority	4
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	Nil
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—*

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	26
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	33
(2) (a) Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	12
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	23

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	9
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

B.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

C.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were made ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

D.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of Slaughtermen on Register	...	27
Number of Licences issued	... ..	4
Number of Renewals of Licences issued	...	4

No animals are slaughtered for sale for human consumption within the area, but a considerable number of pigs are slaughtered under Ministry of Food permit for private use. There is no liability upon the owner to notify such cases of slaughter, and these carcasses are not inspected.

CANAL BOATS.

There are at present six canal boats plying on the canal, all being registered at Preston, where regular inspections are carried out. In the circumstances, no inspections have been made by this authority during the year.

FACTORIES.

1.—Inspection of Factories.

Premises.	No. of Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
Factories ...	79	26	4	—
		<u>26</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Nil</u>

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecu- tions
Nuisances under the Public				
Health Act ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage to Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	4	4	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act ...	—	—	—	—
Illegal occupation of under- ground Bakehouses ...	—	—	—	—
Fire Escapes ...	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL.

For the purpose of dealing with rat infestation within the area, the Council employ a full time Rodent Officer whose salary is reimbursed by the Ministry of Food. During the year a complete survey of premises has been carried out and the extent of infestation noted. All infestations are dealt with as discovered and a nominal charge is made to occupiers of infested premises.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to all members of the staff, and particularly to Mr. J. B. Cook, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, for the valuable assistance and co-operation afforded to me during my inaugural period of office.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. BLACKLEDGE.

